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MEDIA RELEASE
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HUDSON, NH WOMAN SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS
IN JAIL FOR STEALING FROM HER EMPLOYER

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Inspector in Charge of the Boston Division of the U.S. Postal Service Kenneth R. Jones, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kenneth W. Kaiser, and Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross, announced today that Christine Verfaillie, age 35 and a resident of 4 Ridge Drive in Hudson, New Hampshire, has been sentenced to 18 months in jail by United States District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro.

During a court appearance last September, Verfaillie pleaded guilty to conducting a scheme, involving the use of the interstate commercial mail carriers, to steal more than \$200,000 from her former employer, American Express Corporation in 2002 and 2003. She also acknowledged that, at the time of the offense: she was employed as the Operations Manager for a travel agency in Nashua that is owned by AMEX; she was assigned a corporate AMEX credit card that she was only permitted to use for business related expenses; she used the account to purchase 2,488 Gift Cheques, totaling \$213,050, from AMEX; she cashed the checks and used the money for her personal benefit; she stole money to pay for the Cheques by submitting fraudulent business expense vouchers to AMEX; and she concealed her unauthorized use the credit card by submitting fraudulent monthly account statements to employees of AMEX who monitored her use of the account.

Since she has already repaid \$73,228.56 to AMEX, Verfaillie was also ordered to repay \$134,545.97 to AMEX.

After Verfaillie was sentenced, U.S. Attorney Colantuono complimented Investigators from American Express, the Nashua Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office and the FBI for their efforts in this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella prosecuted this case.